<u>IN THE SPECIFICATION:</u>

Please amend paragraph **[105]** as follows:

Generally, embodiments of the present invention have a system architecture that includes two software architecture portions: a streaming media (encoding) protocol independent ~~dependent~~ portion including protocol independent interfaces (functions), and a streaming media (encoding) protocol dependent portion including protocol dependent interfaces (functions). By having protocol dependent and independent portions, this creates a general mechanism for efficient transfer of data that is independent of the encoding format. In this embodiment, a variety of encoding formats, such as RTSP, MMS, and others are supported. These formats have different parameters, for example, packet payload size (e.g. 20 milliseconds of data per packet versus 100 milliseconds of data per packet), timing, and the like. Further, even one encoding format may have a variety of different parameters, such as bit rate, language, dropped packets, and the like. Accordingly, the inventors discovered that it would be advantageous to have a limited set of functions directed to protocol specific functions and have the remaining functions directed to storage and retrieval. Thus storage and retrieval could be generalized and optimized without consideration of the encoding protocol or format.